



### CAREER SECURITY FOR INDIAN SPORTSPERSONS

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#### Abstract

'If you study you will live like a king, if you play sports you will destroy your life.' A famous quote once said, which has destroyed many dreams. Sports has evolved so much and has changed the way we perceive life. The significance of sports is increasing in our country day by day. Sports are meant for the overall development of a person and keeps us healthy. Our athletes/ sportspersons are making us prouder on an international level. Even though what are we providing to our real heroes, that is the question we need to answer. This research paper highlights how a lack of career security in a sports person's life discourages other people from pursuing sports as a career. It shows how that in India, athletes do not get the due that they deserve after toiling hard and have sacrificed so much, to pursue their careers and what injustice is caused to them when they don't have proper security for their career.

**Keywords:** pensions, insurance, sustainable standard of living, indiasports, Career security in sports.

#### INTRODUCTION

Sports are an important aspect of the overall development of a person. Sports should be given much more importance than it actually is given in India. More people should be encouraged to play sports and pursue careers in those areas. But the reason why this is discouraged by majority of our country is simply because of lack of career security provided to these athletes. Along with many other reasons such as short career span, lower pay compared to normal jobs, etc. But our main focus in this paper is talk about our country's career security for their athletes.

#### THEORY

In India, there is a huge lack of career security when pursuing a career in the sports field. The GOI is not spending enough money on sports infrastructure, equipment, facilities, etc. This limits our athletes to have world class training as the facilities available fall short as compared to other countries. The GOI needs to focus on sports other than cricket to ensure the overall growth of sports in our country than just ne or two. They need to provide insurances and pension schemes, which acts as a bonus for anyone who wants to pursue sports as a career. This lack of providing pensions good enough to obtain a sustainable standard of living and good enough insurance to look after the families of the athletes, does not promise a good career security for our Indian athletes. The high level of political influence in our country along with high level of corruption in our country also influences the career security of our athletes.



### CAREER SECURITY OF INDIAN CRICKETERS VS. CAREER SECURITY OF OTHER INDIAN ATHLETES

In our country, the sport of cricket is held in high esteem. Cricket is given lot of respect while other sports aren't given as much importance. While do we have leagues such as Indian Super League (which is for football) and Pro Kabaddi League (which is for kabaddi), they do not match to the love and support that the Indian Premiere League receives (which is for cricket). In our country there is fierce competition due to the high population. May it be for any sport. Even cricket. Due to this fierce competition young athletes tend to give up and lose hope on pursuing their dreams. While this does happen in cricket as well, it does not have that huge of an impact as compared to all of our other sports. It is the GOI's job to take care of and nurture these athletes in such a way that they never give up on their dreams, be it cricket or any other sport. It is our fault too as an audience, as we choose to watch sports such as cricket and do not bother supporting other sports. This results other leagues earning less money, which causes them to provide less career security to their athletes. As an audience it is our job to explore and diversify our choices and we should watch other tournaments other than IPL, if we want the future of sports in our country to shine brightly and give athletes a ray of hope to consider pursuing sports as a viable career option. This does not give justice to all the sports equally. It is not fair to give high number of advantages to one type of athlete and not give the same number of advantages to an athlete of another sport, even if that athlete is more talented than a cricketer. The BCCI is the richest cricket governing board in the world and earned Rs. 1522.01 crores in just 1 financial year of 2020-21. They use this money to provide hefty pensions to their players and also provide them with a good enough pension for their retirement. Whereas, associations such as, Badminton association of India, India Boxing Federation and Indian Golf Union do not provide their players with insurances or pensions required to enjoy a sustainable standard of living. Sports such as hockey, badminton, boxing are all played in Olympics, Asian games, Common Wealth games and Para-olympic games. Whereas, cricket is not played in these tournaments. A gold medalist in Olympics is paid a monthly pension of Rs. 20000, which is the maximum pension they can receive for this level of play. Silver or bronze medalist in Asian and commonwealth games receive a monthly pension of Rs. 12000 when they retire. Which is the minimum pension they receive for this level of play. The other rates of pension in between differ according to level of play. Whereas a first class average cricketer receives a monthly pension of Rs. 40000 from the BCCI when they retire. The insurance provided to cricketers is far higher than the insurance provided athletes in any other sports field. In the event of any injury, a cricketer can enjoy a good standard of living and will still be able to provide for his/her family, whereas an injury of an athlete in any other sports field can be career ending due to lack of proper insurance.

### RESULTS

With the help of the experiment conducted above it is very clear how there is a huge bias towards cricket in this country. Cricketers have a high career security, whereas athletes who pursue careers in different sports have very little or no career security. Lack of career security for sports other than cricket can increase the poverty rate in the country as not many people get the opportunity to pursue sports such as cricket due to the expensive coaching and expensive equipment required to play the sport. People tend to pursue cheaper sports, but without proper security it can just lead to the downfall of a country.



### DISCUSSIONS

#### Pensions of international level athletes

S.No	Category of meritorious sportspersons	Rate of Monthly Pension
1	Medallists at the Olympic Games / Para Olympic Games	Rs. 20000
2	Gold medallists at the World Cup/World Championship* in Olympic and Asian Games disciplines	Rs.16000
3	Silver or Bronze medallists at the World Cup in Olympic and Asian Games disciplines	Rs.14000
4	Gold medallists of the Asian/Commonwealth Games/Para Asian Games	Rs.14000
5	Silver or Bronze medallists of the Asian/Commonwealth Games/ Para Asian Games	Rs.12000

This table shows the pension rate which is received by sports persons for competing in all of the above championships. Even though the achievements of these players is remarkable and is so high, the maximum pension that they receive is not high enough for them to run their house and take care of their family. Such sheer hard work and dedication for the sport is all thrown away if they don't get what they deserve. All sports other than cricket come under this section. Sports such as boxing, badminton, swimming, wrestling, football, etc. are played in these championships.

#### Pensions of Professional Indian Cricketers

Sr. No	Category / No. of matches played	One Time Benefit	No. of Beneficiaries	Total Amount
1	100 or more Test matches	15,000,000.00	11	165,000,000.00
2	Between 75 and 100 Test matches	10,000,000.00	7	70,000,000.00
3	Between 50 and 74 Test matches	7,500,000.00	13	97,500,000.00
4	Between 25 and 49 Test matches	6,000,000.00	27	162,000,000.00
5	Between 10 and 24 Test matches	5,000,000.00	37	185,000,000.00
6	Between 1 and 9 Test matches	3,500,000.00	37	129,500,000.00
7	100 or more First class matches at the end of 2003-04 season	3,000,000.00	24	72,000,000.00
8	Between 75 and 99 First class matches at the end of 2003-04 season	2,500,000.00	81	202,500,000.00



This table shows the beneficiaries received by the Indian cricketers, compared to the athletes playing the other sports. These show the pensions of professional athletes, but in order to receive these benefits, certain conditions have to be met, which has been listed in the table. There is a huge difference in terms of the amount paid to them. For the same amount of effort, determination and dedication, there should be an equal number of pensions given to both athletes of different categories. But the cricketers are still paid far more than the other athletes and is very visible from the tables. The cricketers get more benefits and are able to provide more for their family. This is the state of sportspersons in our country who choose to pursue a sport other than cricket. In short, the comparison of these two tables summarizes why a person would not consider pursuing a career in a sport other than. If there are not getting good returns for their efforts, then why would one bother choosing such a field and put the wellbeing of their family at stake? Even football being a popular sport, is not considered as a career option due to the lack of career security. Parents would obviously discourage their children from pursuing such unrealistic dreams and would encourage them to pursue normal jobs instead.

### CONCLUSION

In conclusion, I would like to state that providing security to these sports person is a very important task that our government needs to undertake, as it is their job to encourage the youth to pursue sports as a career option and make them believe that it is possible to achieve a successful career in the sports industry. They can encourage the youth to do so by starting good schemes of pensions and insurance to players who are playing sports other than cricket. If the government starts taking this matter more seriously, it would benefit them in the long run and would ensure a strong economic growth of our country.

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